

Village of Indian Head Park
201 Acacia Drive
Indian Head Park, IL 60525

MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

“Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2.06 (3) minutes of public meetings shall include, but need not be limited to: a general description of all matters proposed, discussed, or decided, and a record of votes taken.”

Thursday, September 11, 2008

7:30 P.M.

★ **CALL TO ORDER - MAYOR RICHARD ANDREWS**

The regular scheduled meeting of the Village of Indian Head Park Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, September 11, 2008, at the Municipal Facility, 201 Acacia Drive, and was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Richard Andrews. Village Clerk Joseph Consolo called the roll as follows:

★ **ROLL CALL: JOSEPH CONSOLO, VILLAGE CLERK**

PRESENT (AND CONSTITUTING A QUORUM):

Mayor Richard Andrews
Trustee Debbie Anselmo
Trustee Brian T. Bailey
Trustee Anne Bermier
Trustee Carol Coleman
Trustee Matthew P. Walsh II

ALSO PRESENT:

Frank Alonzo, Chief of Police/Administration
Steve Busa, Treasurer
Joseph V. Consolo, Village Clerk
Richard Ramello, Counsel, Storino, Ramello & Durkin
Edward Santen, Water/Public Works Superintendent

NOT PRESENT:

Trustee Norman L. Schnaufer

★ **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

Mayor Richard Andrews and the Board of Trustees led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: *“I Pledge Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God indivisible with liberty and justice for all”.*

◆ MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Andrews noted that seven years ago today our Country suffered a horrendous terrorist attack on the towers in New York, the Pentagon and the plane that went down in the fields of Pennsylvania. He pointed out that seven years later most everyone can remember where they were on that date and we should all never forget what happened on September 11th. Mayor Andrews stated that on September 11, 2001 there were 2,948 confirmed victims who perished from eighty-four (84) different countries. The youngest person who perished was a 2 year old child and the oldest was 85 years old. Mayor Andrews pointed out that 3,251 children lost a parent on that day. Mayor Andrews referred to the Statue of Liberty with a torch burning and read the following poem into the record entitled: *"The Lady" I wonder what she thought as she stood there strong and tall, she couldn't look away. She was forced to watch it all. Did she long to offer comfort as her Country bled. With her arm forever frozen, high above her head. She could not shield her eyes, she could not hide her face, she just stared across the water keeping freedoms place. The smell of smoke and terror somehow reduced her size, so small within the harbor but still we recognize how dignified and beautiful on a day so many died. I wonder what she thought and I know she must have cried.*" Mayor Andrews and the Board paused for a moment of silence in memory of the victims, their families, first responders and our nation that still suffer from the effects of the terror attack on September 11th.

Mayor Andrews congratulated Chief Frank Alonzo on his one year anniversary of serving as the Village's Chief of Police. He noted that Frank also serves as the Village Administrator and he has been a valuable asset to the Village. Mayor Andrews reported that the Village consulted with a roofing contractor who will be replacing the roof shingles on the Heritage Center property. He further noted that the gutters will also be replaced as well as the chimney. Frank Alonzo stated that possibly the work on the Heritage Center can begin in the next couple of weeks. Mayor Andrews stated that a nice article appeared in the *Doings Newspaper* recently regarding the Dome Restaurant, a long time business in Indian Head Park.

Mayor Andrews noted that Cook County is hosting a medication take back program that allows residents to turn in expired or no longer useful medications so they can be disposed of in a safe manner. The event will be held at Triton College on Saturday, September 20th and brochures are available at the Village Offices if anyone is interested.

Mayor Andrews stated that he noticed signs that were placed out on Wolf Road in the parkway by residents before the meeting this evening regarding a proposed crosswalk in the vicinity of the Heritage Center. He noted that Chief Alonzo has been involved with discussions previously concerning a request for a crosswalk near the Heritage Center to provide access to children on the west side of Wolf Road who walk to Pleasantdale School.

Chief Alonzo reported that during the summer, the Pleasantdale School District Superintendent contacted him about signage and possibly a crosswalk for students to cross from the west side of Wolf Road near Hiawatha to the east side of Wolf Road where there is an existing sidewalk along Ashbrook Development. Chief Alonzo stated that he informed the school district previously that Wolf Road is a County Road and the Village does not have jurisdiction to allow a crosswalk to be installed in that location. He noted that certainly the Village would work with County representatives if a crosswalk were to be approved. Chief Alonzo stated that prior to the school year starting, he was invited by the school superintendent to attend a meeting at which time county representatives as well as township representatives would also be in attendance. Chief Alonzo stated that the crosswalk was discussed including safety concerns and possible signage. He noted that Cook County stated that they would be willing to put in a temporary crosswalk with proper signage and the Village engineer was consulted to become involved to determine if a crosswalk was possible in that location. Chief Alonzo stated that the Village engineer is in contact with County representatives to discuss the details of a crosswalk and if there will be an area near the Heritage Center for children to wait to cross over to the east side of the street.

Chief Alonzo stated that Cook County representatives also mentioned that they would be willing to study the feasibility of a sidewalk on the west side of Wolf Road from the Heritage Center to Plainfield Road. Chief Alonzo further stated that the County will not fund a sidewalk and there are also other issues that would come up with a proposed sidewalk on the west side of Wolf Road such as: utility pole locations, drainage culverts, private property areas, easements and mature tree locations.

Chief Alonzo stated that the Village would need to be the petitioner for a crosswalk because the Village owns the Heritage Center property. He added that the Township of Lyons would be willing to help with costs to install the pads or waiting area at the Heritage Center if that option is decided. Mayor Andrews pointed out that the Village as petitioner does not include a sidewalk in the County right-of-way.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Reappointment of Earl O'Malley to the Planning and Zoning Commission for the term ending September 9, 2010
- Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Settlement Agreement Between Michael Pall, Mary Pall and Emily Pall and the Village of Indian Head Park (***Resolution #R9-08-1***)
- Approval of a Resolution to Authorize the Execution of a Second Amendment to the Legal Services Agreement by and Between Storino, Ramello & Durkin and the Village of Indian Head Park (***Resolution #R9-08-2***)

- Approval of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 10.20 of the Municipal Code Regarding Stop and Yield Intersections and Traffic Regulations (***Ordinance #08-14***)
- Approval of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 10.24 of the Municipal Code Regarding Snow Emergency Routes (***Ordinance #08-15***).

Mayor Andrews entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda, as presented. Trustee Coleman moved, seconded by Trustee Walsh to approve the consent agenda, as presented. (5/0/1).

Ayes: Trustees: Anselmo, Bailey, Bermier, Coleman, Walsh

Nays: None

Absent: Schnaufer

◆ **APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Financial Report for the month ending August 31, 2008

Treasurer Busa presented the financial report for the month ending August 31, 2008. For the month of August, he noted: (1) total revenues were \$250,326.60; (2) expenditures were \$260,770.19 and; (3) total fund balances in all accounts at the end of August were \$562,045.48. Trustee Bailey moved, seconded by Trustee Bermier, to approve the financial report for the month ending August 31, 2008, as presented by Treasurer Busa. Carried by unanimous roll call vote (5/0/1).

Ayes: Trustees: Anselmo, Bailey, Bermier, Coleman, Walsh

Nays: None

Absent: Schnaufer

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting - August 14, 2008

After review of Board meeting minutes, Trustee Coleman moved, seconded by Trustee Anselmo, to approve the August 14, 2008 regular Board meeting minutes, as presented. Carried by unanimous voice vote (5/0/1).

AGENDA ITEM

Discussion Regarding Winter Road Salt Purchase

Mayor Andrews stated that the discussion regarding winter road salt was added to the Board agenda due to situations that many Villages are facing as well as Indian Head Park with regard to purchasing road salt for the upcoming winter season. Frank Alonzo stated that many salt suppliers are informing Villages that there are salt shortages and supplies are limited.

He noted that the Village's salt supplier usually provides 1,000 to 1,200 tons for the winter season and this year they can only sell the Village 100 tons, which was ordered but has not been delivered. Frank Alonzo noted that the Village previously paid \$35.00 to \$40.00 per ton for road salt and now it will be \$135.00 to \$230.00 per ton even if the Village is able to order from a salt supplier due to a short supply this year. Superintendent Santen stated that the Village currently has a limited supply of winter road salt and many other communities in the area are facing the same difficulties with purchasing salt from a supplier. Mayor Andrews stated that the higher cost for winter road salt will have an impact on the budget and he also has contacted the Director of the West Central Municipal Conference who is looking into salt supplies and costs on behalf of all member communities of the conference. He noted that in the meantime, the Village will continue to provide the same snow plow services. However, there is a limited supply of salt and the Public Works Department will need to be conservative when salting the streets until salt supplies are replenished. Mayor Andrews stated that the Village of Brookfield and Village of Oak Park have taken steps to pass a resolution asking the Illinois Attorney General to investigate the salt supply shortages and the extremely high cost to purchase salt. He noted that the high costs (almost triple the cost from last year) and short supply are certainly not attributable to the high cost of gas and oil to move it.

Mayor Andrews suggested that Indian Head Park join Brookfield, Oak Park and any other community in supporting a resolution to ask the Illinois Attorney General to look into this matter.

Superintendent Santen stated that some Villages are considering an option of purchasing salt directly from one of the salt mines in Brazil. He noted that the Village engineer mentioned that the State of Illinois is considering purchasing salt directly from the mines. Trustee Coleman asked Superintendent Santen how much salt could be stored in the salt dome at the Public Works Facility site. Superintendent Santen stated that the salt dome holds about 700 tons of salt and the salt shortage problem and high costs have not been experienced before until this year. He noted that the Village has done business with the current salt supplier for twenty-five (25) years and the supplier can only promise to deliver 100 tons of salt at a higher cost. Mayor Andrews inquired if there are any chemical alternatives that can be used that would be effective in melting ice in lieu of salt. Superintendent Santen stated that calcium chloride works at lower temperatures and salt is the best application for melting ice.

QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE BY INDIAN HEAD PARK RESIDENTS ONLY

Mayor Andrews stated that the topic of the crosswalk was not an item on the Board agenda this evening. However, he entertained questions and/or comments from the audience at this time.

Jim Grady, of 6492 Sioux Trail, stated that he and his wife Patricia have lived in the Village for twenty-eight (28) years. Mr. Grady further stated that it is a disgrace that the Village has never been able to find a way to build sidewalks on Wolf Road. He added that Wolf Road is a dangerous thoroughfare and the Village is fortunate that no children have ever been killed walking to school. Mr. Grady stated that from time to time over the years the Board has taken up this issue on three or four occasions with much of the discussion of whether it should be on the east side or the west side or if the County should install a sidewalk, then the issue dies. Mr. Grady stated that he does not believe the Village has the families and children in mind and other Villages such as Western Springs have found a way to install sidewalks in that community. Mr. Grady stated that young families will be attracted to the community if there are sidewalks. Trustee Bermier stated that she started on the Board of Trustees in 1981. She mentioned in the late 1980's and early 1990's, there was a campaign to study the issue of sidewalks and there was a lot of input from residents. Trustee Bermier stated that at that time there were angry residents totally against sidewalks because they stated they did not want people walking near their homes and that may be one reason the issue died down. Mrs. Grady stated that she did recall some residents along Wolf Road at that time that did not want a sidewalk going through their property. She noted there is a library on Wolf Road now and how can children get there if there are no sidewalks. Mrs. Grady stated that it would be dangerous for children to walk along a busy street on the grass areas either to get to the library or walk to school. She noted that Burr Ridge, Western Springs and LaGrange all have sidewalks along major streets and the Village could be sued if someone is hurt or killed.

Mayor Andrews stated that he would like to have a sidewalk from Plainfield Road to connect with the Burr Ridge sidewalk near the Flagg Creek bridge. Mayor Andrews stated that with regard to the comments about sidewalks in Western Springs, the Township of Lyons paid for a good portion of those sidewalks and certainly the Village of Indian Head Park can also approach the township about funding for a sidewalk. Mayor Andrews stated that the Village cannot require the County to put in a sidewalk in the County right-of-way any more than the Village can require School District #106 to purchase a bus to pick up children in front of their homes to take children to school.

Counsel Richard Ramello stated the Village would have no liability issues regarding the presence or absence of a sidewalk if someone were hurt or injured in that particular location because it is a County road and right-of-way. He noted that even if the location was a Village right-of-way, there is no statutory or other requirement that requires a Village to install a sidewalk. Counsel Ramello noted that a sidewalk is commonly installed by a developer when they develop property initially and sidewalks were not part of the development of some areas throughout the Village at that time.

Mayor Andrews noted that the sidewalk along Plainfield Road was installed and financed by a generous donation from Dartmoor Homes who is developing Timber Trails in Western Springs. He noted there was much more room to configure a sidewalk in that location. Mayor Andrews stated that the private property boundary along Wolf Road from the Heritage Center to Plainfield is closer to Wolf Road and there are utility poles, mature trees and drainage areas along that stretch. Mayor Andrews stated that the primary issue is funding and the Village does not have funds available for a sidewalk along Wolf Road. Chief Alonzo stated he recalled a previous sidewalk study by a prior Board about eight years ago and the cost for a sidewalk from Plainfield Road along Wolf Road to Joliet Road at that time was a million dollar project.

A resident of Big Bear Drive inquired if the County could be approached for funding or to seek their approval for a right-of-way. Chief Alonzo stated that prior to the beginning of this school year, the County mentioned that they would look into the feasibility of putting a sidewalk in on the east side of Wolf Road from the Heritage Center to Plainfield, but the County will not pay for a sidewalk even if it is feasible. A resident in the audience inquired if the Village checked into any Federal grants through the Safe School Grant Program that might be available for a sidewalk. Chief Alonzo stated that he asked representatives of School District #106 if they are aware of any available funding for sidewalks under the Safe School Grant Program.

Stephanie Kelly, of Big Bear Drive, stated that she and her family have lived in Indian Head Park since 1995 and she generally drives her children to school because Big Bear Drive is dangerous to walk with the turn lane. Mrs. Kelly stated that she noticed children crossing through some of the yards to get to Hiawatha to cross at the Heritage Center and asked if there are neighbors opposed to that idea or if there are any alternate routes.

Mary Pall, of Apache Drive, stated that her children currently walk to school and they cut through to Hiawatha because of friendly neighbors who want their children to have a safe environment to walk to school. Mrs. Pall stated that she is fortunate to live on Apache to get to Hiawatha and cutting through a property may not be feasible for everyone. Mrs. Pall stated that school started on the 25th and the issue needs to be resolved. Chief Alonzo stated that the Village engineer is in contact with the schools and Cook County as it relates only to a crosswalk at the Heritage Center. Mrs. Pall stated that after 25 years it is time for an answer and the study of the number of families should be started tomorrow. Chief Alonzo stated that School District #106 representatives are aware of the Safe School Grant and the requirements to participate in that program. Mrs. Pall stated that the demographics of Indian Head Park are changing rapidly and there are many more young families with children in the community.

Mayor Andrews stated that the Village Board looks into each and every issue that comes before the Board for discussion or consideration, everyone wants the school children to be safe and the Village will do whatever it can to support the other governmental entities. However, the County maintains jurisdiction over Wolf Road. Mayor Andrews asked for residents of the community to contact County Commissioners asking them to look into the matter of the crosswalk and sidewalks.

Jodi Hager, of 199 Cascade Drive, stated that it would be advisable to the parents of children who attend School District #106 to obtain information from the school district on the specific number of children attending the school over the past five years from Indian Head Park. Pat Brennen, 6395 Arrowhead Court, stated that her children also attend School District #106, she allows children to cross her property to get to Hiawatha to cross at the Heritage Center, there are about twenty-two children each morning crossing to get to school and it would also be nice to have a crosswalk or sidewalk for pedestrians who like to walk throughout the community.

Mayor Andrews stated that he lives on the south end of town near School District #107 and a portion of the school district is north of Joliet Road. He noted that Joliet Road is busier than Wolf Road and there is no sidewalk to get to that end of town to the school. He noted that it would be nice to have a sidewalk from one end of town to the other to connect the community so people could walk to school or to the businesses in town. Mayor Andrews stated that nothing happens overnight and sometimes time is needed to explore these issues. He noted that perhaps the school Board could check into the possibility of designing a route and renting a school bus to pick-up children in the community faster than moving utility poles, redefining drainage, obtaining easements, obtaining various approvals for a sidewalk and obtaining funding. Mayor Andrews noted that there are other alternatives to a sidewalk and other school districts have a bus system to get children to the schools.

Tom Hinshaw, a resident of 6575 Shabbona and also a member of the District #106 School Board, stated that he was in attendance at the same meeting as Chief Alonzo. Mr. Hinshaw stated that he appreciates the efforts put forth by Chief Alonzo as well as the Village Board and he asked the Village to be advocates of the citizens. He noted that the issue is more than students at the Highlands School and over the years there have been many residents walking in the community that cross over Wolf Road from Acacia to the west side of Wolf. Mr. Hinshaw stated that the community can certainly contact the Cook County Commissioners but sometimes it takes a municipality to spearhead an issue to pull the solution together. Mr. Hinshaw stated that the school Board has not discussed bussing at School District 106 because it would be difficult to zero in on one neighborhood for bussing but he will present the idea to the school Board as well as checking into the Safe School Grant Program. Mr. Hinshaw stated that Wolf Road is a main thoroughfare and a sidewalk is needed along Wolf Road. Frank Alonzo stated that grant applications for various projects have been submitted on the State and Federal levels. However, available funding is limited.

Dennis Schermerhorn, of Blackhawk Trail, stated that his property backs up to Wolf Road, he does not have children in school and a sidewalk and bicycle pathway along Wolf Road would be nice. He noted that if everyone works together at every level possibly it could be done.

Mayor Andrews stated that possibly the Federal government could be included in this project when they pass the 2009 National Transportation Bill to determine if there is any available funding.

Chris Metz, stated that the issue here is not whether parents are taking their children to school versus being picked up by a school bus. He noted that it is important for children to get exercise, to promote fitness and to get out in the environment by way of a safe passage to school. Mayor Andrews stated that he is not trying to suggest school bussing in lieu of a temporary crosswalk or sidewalk. He noted that the bus suggestion was just a possibility. Frank Alonzo mentioned that some of the utility companies have indicated on past projects that it may take six months to one year from the service order request to relocate utility poles.

Jim Hayes, of Hiawatha Lane, stated that his home is on the corner of Wolf Road and Hiawatha Lane, his family moved to Indian Head Park in 1992 and he would be happy to help with the pad or waiting area for children to cross at the corner of Hiawatha and Wolf, near his property boundary. He stated that there are many more young families with children moving to the area.

Trustee Bermier stated that she agrees with residents that a crosswalk or sidewalk should benefit people of all ages. She noted that many times seniors attending Aging Well meetings always asked if there could be a pathway or sidewalk in the Village so they could maintain their independence if they no longer are driving. Mayor Andrews stated that a letter was received from a resident of 11345 Hiawatha Lane in favor of a sidewalk on the west side of Wolf Road. Melody Garon, of Sequoya Lane, stated that she has a two-year old son and would like to walk throughout the community and asked if a sidewalk could be proposed on the east side of Wolf so utility poles and drainage would not need to be disturbed to connect with the existing section of sidewalk at Ashbrook Development. Mayor Andrews stated that the idea of a crosswalk at the Heritage Center was to get the children across to the east side to continue on the sidewalk along Ashbrook Development to cross with a light and crossing-guard at the corner of Plainfield Road.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Bailey moved, seconded by Trustee Coleman, to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (11) regarding probable or imminent litigation and 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (2) concerning collective negotiation matters between the Village of Indian Head Park and a representative of a unit of its employees. Carried by unanimous roll call vote (5/0/1).

Ayes: Trustees: Anselmo, Bailey, Bermier, Coleman, Walsh

Nays: None

Absent: Schnaufer

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Trustee Coleman moved, seconded by Trustee Bailey, to return to the regular Board meeting. Carried by unanimous voice vote. (5/0/1).

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Trustee Bailey moved, seconded by Trustee Anselmo, to adjourn the regular Board meeting at 9:40 p.m. Carried by unanimous voice vote (5/0/1).

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Leach, Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary